

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, claims 144 and 145 have been amended to independent form, claims 142, 143, 146 and 147 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 94 has been amended to only to clarify the language and improve the form thereof.

As an initial matter, Applicant notes that an Information Disclosure Statement has been filed herewith. Consideration of the cited reference and return of the initialed Form 1449 is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes, with appreciation, that claims 72-93, 97-113, 116, 118, 119, 121-141 and 148 have been allowed, and that the Examiner has indicated that claims 144 and 145 are directed to allowable subject matter.

In response to the objection to the drawings, Applicant has provided new Figures 42(a) and 42(b) with appropriate "Prior Art" labels. Thus, withdrawal of the drawing objection is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 94 has been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawaguchi. For at least the following reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 94 is not anticipated by Kawaguchi.

An embodiment of claim 94 is illustrated in Figure 24 which shows a planar light guiding body 254 having a light incident surface 254a and an end surface opposing to the light incident surface 254g, a light source (light source unit) 251 is provided on the end

surface opposing to the light incident surface 254g of the planar light guiding body 254, and converting means such as a diffusing and reflecting sheet 253 and a reflecting plate 273 (see Figure 26(a)) is provided on the light incident surface 254a. Thus, the light source unit and the converting means are arranged so as to oppose each other, sandwiching the planar light guiding body therebetween. With this arrangement, the converting means 253·273 converts light from the light source unit 251 into a linearly emitting state, and the converted light in a linearly emitting state reaches the planar light guiding body 254 again from the light incident surface 245a, whereby the planar light guiding body 254 converts light in a linearly emitting state into a planarly light emitting state.

In this arrangement, even when a dot light emitting source is used as the light source unit 251, light from the light source unit 251 becomes light sufficiently spreading when being incident to the converting means 253·273. Therefore, the converting means 253·273 can convert light from the light source unit 251 into more completely diffused light to reach the planar light guiding body 254 again. As a result, it is possible to effectively provide a uniform luminance distribution of light emitting from the light outgoing surface 254b of the planar light guiding body 254.

On the contrary, the arrangement disclosed in Kawaguchi, as illustrated in Figure 1, includes a planar light guide 16 corresponding to a planar light guiding body and a linear light guide 19 corresponding to linear light guiding body. Therefore, Kawaguchi does not disclose the arrangement corresponding to the converting means defined in

claim 94. Also, Kawaguchi does not disclose the arrangement in which the light source unit and the converting means are arranged so as to oppose each other, sandwiching the planar light guiding body therebetween.

For at least the forgoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 94 is not anticipated by the cited reference. Thus, claim 94, as well as all of the claims dependent thereon, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

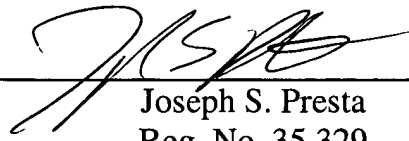
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant believes that all of the pending claims clearly and patentably distinguish the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Thus, passage of this case to issuance at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions or deem that any further issues need to be addressed prior to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the phone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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FIG. 42 (a)
(PRIOR ART)

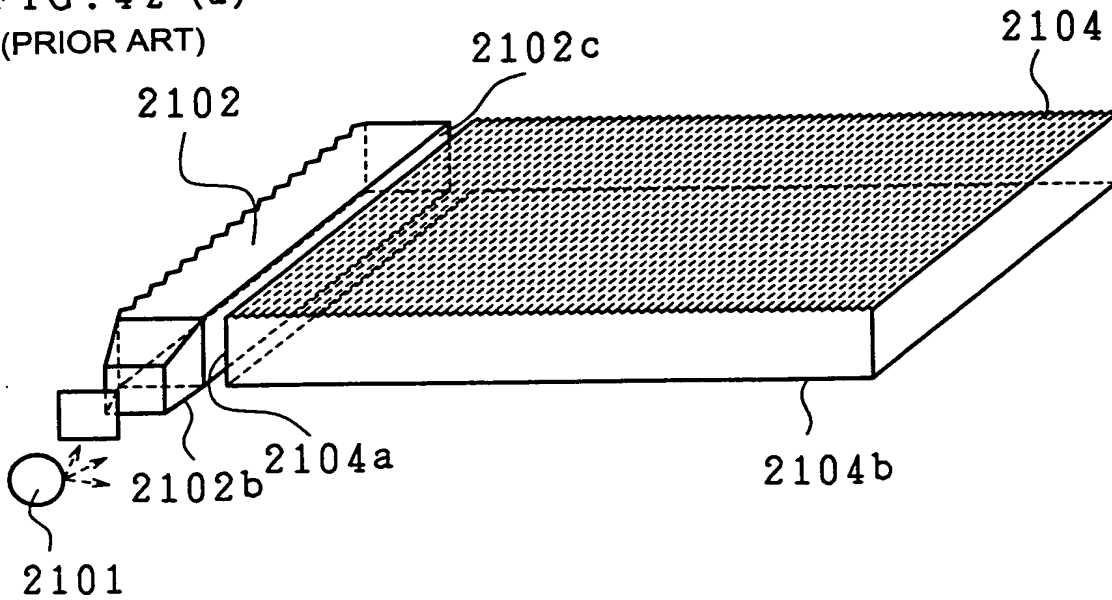


FIG. 42 (b)
(PRIOR ART)

